

T Transportation Committee

Meeting date: June 11, 2012

Council Meeting: June 27, 2012

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	June 3, 2012
Subject:	Designate DCRRA as the Cedar Avenue Transitway Stage 1 Lead Agency
District(s), Member(s):	5-Steve Elkins, 15-Steven T. Chávez, 16-Wendy Wulff
Policy/Legal Reference:	Laws of Minnesota, 1 st Special Session 2005, Ch 6, Sec 90; Regional Transitway Guidelines
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Arlene McCarthy, MTS Director (651-602-1754)
Division/Department:	Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council designate the Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority (DCRRA) as the lead agency responsible for the development and implementation of Cedar Avenue Transitway Stage 1.

Background

As allowed by the 2005 Minnesota Legislature, the DCRRA has acted as the lead agency for implementing the initial stage of the Cedar Avenue Transitway. The corridor extends from Lakeville to Bloomington with express service continuing to Minneapolis and the University of Minnesota.

Stage 1 of the Transitway includes new park-and-rides at Lakeville Cedar, Cedar Grove (Eagan) and the Apple Valley Transit Station along with increased express service and facility improvements at the Mall of America (MOA) transit station and 28th Avenue park-and-ride. Stage 1 also includes construction of bus-only shoulders and walk-up station stops at 140th and 147th streets in Apple Valley as well as METRO Red Line station-to-station service between Apple Valley and the MOA/28th Avenue. A significant amount of technology, such as real time customer information signs, traffic signal priority, and fare collection equipment, along with bus procurement are also components of Stage 1.

Over the last two years, the DCRRA led efforts to clarify roles and responsibilities through the preparation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and provided significant input into the Regional Transitway Guidelines project delivery and oversight section. The Guidelines state that the Council/Metro Transit is the preferred lead agency for implementing BRT following selection of the locally preferred alternative but, with Council agreement, the lead agency may be a joint powers board, a county or a city.

Rationale

Designating the DCRRA as the lead agency for Stage 1 would be consistent with the Cedar Avenue Transitway Stage 1 Memorandum of Understanding. It will also officially recognize DCRRA for its leadership role and efforts associated with the Cedar Avenue Transitway over the past several years through completion of Stage 1.

The Council will be responsible for the ongoing operations of the transit services being implemented in the Cedar Avenue corridor associated with Stage 1 – the METRO Red Line service as well as enhanced express services.

Funding

There are no funding implications associated with the proposed action.

Known Support / Opposition

The DCRRA supports being officially designated as the lead agency for the Cedar Avenue Transitway Stage 1 development and implementation.